COURSE DETAIL

LANGUAGE, MIND, AND SOCIETY
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Linguistics Education Communication
UCEAP Course Number 137
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title LANGUAGE, MIND, AND SOCIETY
UCEAP Transcript Title LANG MIND&SOCIETY
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course is an upper-division introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of human language, and to what characterizes human language and makes it different from other animal communication systems and other human cognitive systems. The course introduces the different components that human language is made of and how linguists investigate them. In particular, it looks at sounds (and signs) and how they can be combined to form bigger units up to words (phonetics, phonology, and morphology); it looks at words and how they can be combined to form bigger units up to sentences (syntax); finally, it looks at how words and sentences can be used to convey meaning (semantics and pragmatics). While doing so, it emphasizes the innate cognitive aspects of human language but also touches on those aspects that are sensitive to culture and society and determine some of the variation and differences among human languages. Some of the question the course addresses include: what is a language and what does knowledge of a language consist of; are human languages fundamentally different from other systems of animal communication; are some languages better than others; what's a dialect and how does it compare to a language; how do children acquire language, does our knowledge of language derive entirely from experience, or do humans come “hardwired” with certain innate capacities for language; how do languages develop and change over time? For practical reasons, English is the primary source of data and examples for the course for practical reasons as the lingua franca. Still, data from other languages are presented throughout the course, with special attention to Italian, other languages (aka "dialects") spoken in Italy, and languages spoken by the students in the course.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title
LANGUAGE, MIND, AND SOCIETY

Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus BOLOGNA Study Center
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed

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